

CHANCROID

I. IDENTIFICATION

- A. **CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:** A sexually transmitted disease (STD) characterized by painful genital ulceration and inflammatory inguinal adenopathy. The disease is caused by infection with *Haemophilus ducreyi*. Minimally symptomatic lesions may occur on the vaginal wall or cervix; asymptomatic infections may occur in women.
- B. **REPORTING CRITERIA:** Laboratory confirmation.
- C. **LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION:**
- Isolation of *Haemophilus ducreyi* from a clinical specimen.
- D. **KENTUCKY CASE DEFINITION:** A clinically compatible illness that is laboratory confirmed.

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED / PREVENTION MEASURES

- A. **KENTUCKY DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REQUIRES ROUTINE REPORTING:** REPORT TO THE LOCAL OR STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT within 5 business days of the identification of a case or suspected case. Public health intervention expected.
- B. **EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS REQUESTED:**
- Kentucky Reportable Disease Report Form – EPID 200 (Rev. Jan/03).
 - **Note:** Section labeled “Additional Information for Sexually Transmitted Diseases Only” must be completed.
- C. **PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:**
- Patients should be counseled for their risk of HIV and methods to reduce other STDs.
 - Patients with genital ulcers should have a darkfield microscopic examination for syphilis. The darkfield examination must be done prior to giving the patient antibiotics.
 - Follow-up all patients with genital ulcerations at weekly intervals until the lesion(s) are clearly resolving and perform serologic test for syphilis. Chancroid ulcers, like other genital ulcers, are associated with increased risk of HIV infection.
 - Patients should be instructed that sexual contacts within two weeks before and after onset of symptoms should be referred for evaluation and treatment. Sexual contacts with out signs or symptoms should receive prophylactic treatment. Patients should understand the importance of abstaining from having sex while any lesion is present. Women without visible signs may be carriers.

III. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION

- A. KENTUCKY SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM:
502-564-4804.
- B. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE
BRANCH: 502-564-3261.
- C. KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, DIVISION OF LABORATORY
SERVICES: 502-564-4446.

IV. RELATED REFERENCES

- 1. Chin, James, ed. CHANCROID. In: Control of Communicable Diseases Manual. 17th
ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2000: 90-91.
- 2. 1998 Guidelines for the Treatment of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, MMWR
Vol. 47(RR-1).
- 3. Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinical Practice Guidelines, 1991, CDC.